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To:
Name **BAOQUOC N. TO**

Company **US PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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From:
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Comments _____

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Examiner To,

Here are some suggested alternatives for Claim 1, per our phone conversation on January 5, 2005. I agree with your observation that the claim didn't adequately describe what the method did. These suggested alternatives now mention improving compression and the general mechanism that is used to achieve it. Please let me know if you think any of these are adequate.

Thank you,

Alan Balkany

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Application No: 09/541,631

Application Filed: April 4, 2000

Title: Hierarchical Method for Storing Data with Improved Compression

===

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for improving the compression for storage of storing a plurality of parallel data element sequences comprising:

   (a) creating a dictionary of unique values for each of said data element sequences, wherein each dictionary contains a numeric index for each unique value;

   (b) forming an n-ary tree with leaf and interior nodes wherein:

      (1) each said leaf node corresponds to one of said dictionaries,

      (2) each said interior node associates a numeric index with tuples of numeric indexes from other subordinate leaf or interior nodes, and

      (3) interior nodes are capable of storing one or more sequences of mutually-

consecutive tuples ~~distinctly from the other tuples~~ by a method that uses the consecutive nature of said tuples to represent said tuples in a compressed form.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for <u>improving the compression for storage of</u> ~~storing~~ a plurality of parallel data element sequences comprising:

    (a) creating a dictionary of unique values for each of said data element sequences, wherein each dictionary contains a numeric index for each unique value;

    (b) forming an n-ary tree with leaf and interior nodes wherein:

        (1) each said leaf node corresponds to one of said dictionaries,

        (2) each said interior node associates a numeric index with tuples of numeric indexes from other subordinate leaf or interior nodes, and

        (3) interior nodes are capable of storing one or more sequences of mutually-consecutive tuples ~~distinctly from the other tuples~~ by a method that uses the consecutive nature of said tuples to represent said tuples in a more compact form.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for <u>improving the compression for storage of</u> ~~storing~~ a plurality of parallel data element sequences comprising:

    (a) creating a dictionary of unique values for each of said data element sequences, wherein each dictionary contains a numeric index for each unique value;

    (b) forming an n-ary tree with leaf and interior nodes wherein:

        (1) each said leaf node corresponds to one of said dictionaries,

        (2) each said interior node associates a numeric index with tuples of numeric indexes from other subordinate leaf or interior nodes, and

        (3) interior nodes are capable of storing one or more sequences of mutually-consecutive tuples ~~distinctly from the other tuples~~ by a method that uses the consecutive nature of said tuples to represent said tuples in a form that uses less storage space than representing said tuples as individual tuples.